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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/004,719	12/04/2001	Stephen P. Claussen	60680-553	1202

7590 07/05/2002
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39577 Woodward Avenue, Suite 300
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EXAMINER
DICKENS, CHARLENE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2855

DATE MAILED: 07/05/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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FILE COPY

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/004,719

Applicant(s)

CLAUSSEN ET AL.

Examiner

Ex. Dickens

Art Unit

2855

-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
 Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2,3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

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1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is not clear what applicants are purporting the invention to be- a method of monitoring a fluid pressure or a tire management system? Specifically, the method steps are not positively recited. Also, if the invention is the method of monitoring, there is only a single step. A single method claim is ambiguous and thus the metes and bound cannot be readily ascertained.

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Genna. As best understood, Genna teaches a method of monitoring a fluid pressure of a tire with a sensor, disposed in conduit assemblies for conducting fluid to or from the tire,

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of a tire pressure management system comprising: providing a pulse of compressed fluid 20 to the conduit assemblies, unless a counter exceeds a count, the fluid in the conduit assemblies thereafter having a conduit pressure; wherein the pulse has a duration that corresponds to a ratio defined by a first predetermined amount divided by a second predetermined amount (col. 19, lines 44-47); wherein the first predetermined amount corresponds to a pressure shortfall with respect to the target pressure in the conduit assemblies (col. 19, lines 48-50); wherein the second predetermined amount corresponds to a pressure increase realized from the a pulse of compressed fluid introduced into the conduit assemblies prior to said providing; wherein the duration corresponds to a duration of a pulse of compressed fluid introduced to the conduit assemblies prior to said providing; further comprising repeating said providing until the conduit pressure equals or exceeds the target pressure (col. 19, lines 52-54); repeating said providing until the conduit assemblies and the tire are in fluid communication or equilibrium (Fig. 17); wherein said providing increases fluid pressure in the tire or is a sufficient to initiate fluid communication among, via a valve 24 interposed between, the conduit assemblies and the tire; further comprising determining whether the difference between the conduit pressure and the pressure of the fluid in the conduit following a stabilization period exceeds a limit (Fig. 18);

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wherein the stabilization period is sufficient to ascertain whether a leak exists in the conduit assemblies 34; further comprising logging a leak fault if the difference exceeds the limit (col. 19, lines 54-61).

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Metzger et al., McGhee, and Adams et al. all disclose tire management systems with pressure sensors.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Dickens whose telephone number is (703) 305-7047. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782. The fax numbers are (703) 305-3431 and (703) 305-3432.



cd/dickens
July 1, 2002



Benjamin R. Fuller
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800

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